



**Libby Area Technical Assistance Group, Inc.  
P.O. Box 53, Libby, MT 59923**

**September 9, 2003 Meeting Agenda**

**I. Call to Order (7 PM)**

**II. Introductions – In attendance:**

Bob Beagle	Jerry Hersman	George Keck
Clinton Maynard	Red Morton	Mary Tevebaugh
Sandy Wagner	Rita Windom	Bob Zimmerman
Jim Christiansen	Craig French	Barb Guthneck
Jon Reny	Gordon Sullivan	Scott Supernaugh
Keith O'Bleness	Darlene Guthneck	D.C. Orr
Wendy Thomi	Abe Troyer	

**III. Review and Approval of July 15 and August 12, 2003 notes** – Bob Beagle made a motion to accept both Board Meeting Notes and Jerry seconded. The Board unanimously agreed.

**IV. October meeting date (October 7, 7:00 PM County Annex Basement)** – George reminded everyone that our meeting will be on the first Tuesday in October as it aligns with the second Thursday in October when the CAG meets.

**V. Old Business**

**A. Budget/Funding Status** – George advised that we still have approximately \$6 in the bank, since we receive funding as reimbursement for expenses already incurred. George verified with Sandy that we paid our D&O Insurance.

**B. Tiger Team Reports**

Education – (Sandy Wagner) – Shared draft (Living with Vermiculite, Basic facts and tips for Libby residents) that she and Wendy had worked on and asked for comments by noon the next day. (Draft attached.) Red made comment that the flyer is misleading. He said you can't haul contaminated refuse/dirt to the landfill because you must have a DOT permit to haul. D.C. said that is only if it is higher than 10%. Jim said if it is contaminated the dump won't take it anyway. He said to get around the problem EPA is hauling any contaminated materials. John Reny and Gordon have volunteered to help on this Tiger Team. Sandy asked if anyone else wants to help, let her know.

Survey – (Mary Tevebaugh) – Mary along with Cathie Sullivan and Leah Parker (with Gordon sitting in) got a copy of the EPA survey to determine what

they should put in their survey. After studying it they felt it would be duplication to do another survey as they had in mind to ask the same questions that EPA already had asked. Instead, Mary read a proposed article to put in the paper along with a survey and ask people to fill out the survey and return it to various TAG Board member's businesses or our post office box. George asked when she would need comments and she said in two weeks. She and her Tiger Team would then prepare a revised article/survey to present at the October Board meeting.

Jim asked Mary for input on the EPA survey. He asked Mary to get the EPA survey to the TAG and have them look at the wording and the questions and see if they had any changes they saw that needed to be made.

Wendy Thomi asked if she could visit with Mary about the survey to go over the questions and make sure they are clear and Mary agreed.

Septic Tanks – (Red Morton) – George asked Red if we could put the Septic Tank Tiger Team on the October Board Meeting Agenda for an update and Red agreed.

Sub Contractors Hiring Locals – Rick Flescher – Gordon said he and Rick had worked on that and would bring info to the next Board meeting.

**C. White Paper/Action Item Status** – Jim prepared a written response and was only able to bring two copies to the TAG meeting. Barb was asked to make copies and send them out to the Board.

George asked Barb to make a matrix with brief description of the Action Items that are pending. She is to add an estimated completion date and then a final completion date. She is to bring this matrix to give out at the next Board meeting, and Barb agreed.

**D. Disposition of Environmental Justice Grant** – After considerable comments, it was agreed that George would sign the rough draft of the Environmental Justice Grant Support Letter with minor corrections. Barb was asked to hand carry the letter to CARD the next day.

## **VI. New Business**

**A. EPA Update** – Jim handed out two copies of his response to the LATAG Action Items. Barb was to make copies and send out to all Board and interested parties the next day.

George asked Jim to give the Board an update on the previous Friday's EPA Risk Communication Workshop. Jim explained that while the training was aimed at the EPA contractors, he felt it was important that a few of the TAG Board members sit in on it to build communication with the Contractors. Jim explained some of the "behind the scenes" things that went on to successfully get Alvin Chun to Libby.

Jim declared the training a big success with the contractors going away with a commitment to treat the people the best they possibly could.

George asked if our Board could write a thank you note.

**(ACTION ITEM)** Jim said he would get us the words and an idea how best to thank Alvin by the next LATAG Board meeting in October.

**B. Technical Advisor's Update** – Gordon said that he had received the CDM, Volpe, Salute and ER Safety Plans from Jim and that the plans covered all OSHA requirements or above but he had some questions. He said that Keith and he disagreed on safety but since the Safety Plan doesn't have particulars that he, Gordon felt, that it is left open to the contractor's interpretation. For one thing, Gordon said handling of Libby amphiboles is not mentioned. Gordon said he has had meetings already with Scott, Clinton and Shawn regarding these Safety Plans and concerns. Will be meeting again regarding specific safety concerns. Gordon said they will meet again when the contractors to hopefully have some of these procedures down in writing.

Gordon said he had asked for the Volpe Interagency Interagency Agreement and CDM's procedures reports. He has asked for the chain of command from Jim to the subcontractors and will read through what Jim gave him and will make a report to the Board at the next regular Board meeting.

Also, Gordon said he had read the CERCLA (Comprehensive Environmental Response and Liabilities Act) Public Law, commonly known as Superfund legislation twice and feels, though hard to comprehend that all Board and interested community members should read it. Gordon also felt that everyone should read the EPA Public Involvement Policy, Public Health Assessment for Libby Site, and Ani Toxicologist Report Profiles for Asbestos.. He asked for permission to spend money to make copies of all the materials that he thought the Board should read so we could understand our rights and obligations. Gordon read the Administrative Record, which is complete and we can search that record for anything we need.. George asked if he would instead, bring point documents and give a 5 minute education segment on each document for the Board at the rate of perhaps one document a month. Gordon agreed. Wendy asked Gordon to check with her as she already has summary documents from training on CERCLA and EPA Public Involvement Policy that she has done in the past. Gordon agreed to do the CERCLA training at the next meeting.

Jim brought up the Safety Plans as a good point that would make more sense to Gordon if he talked to the workers. Gordon said he has been invited to attend the morning briefing meetings. Gordon specifically asked the Board for permission to attend one to two of these morning briefing meetings a week as part of his work under the contract as an education and learning experience. Jon Reny suggested that Gordon be allowed to attend with the understanding that he had no power or "gun" to say no to anything the contractors were doing.

Scott explained that the morning meetings were the "kick off" for the day. He said they round robin to get an update on what is planned and make sure they have the right people and materials at the right sites. Everyone talks 3 to 5 minutes and are off to their sites.

Jim said that he believes that having Gordon or other TAG Board members attend these morning meetings probably makes CDM nervous but felt that it was important that we know what CDM is doing so felt it was important. Scott asked if anyone does come that they not interrupt the meeting but hold their questions until the workers have left so as not to hold up their work day.

Clinton asked Jim why in the brochure (Living with Vermiculite...) Sandy handed out earlier that it does not say for citizens to don respirators if they come across asbestos. Jim said that citizens are not trained to use respirators, that they could use them wrong but that it was a good point and he would look at it.

Rita, too cautioned Gordon and the TAG Board, that if they are going to the morning meetings to understand that they are running a business, where time is money and for them not to take up the worker's time. Gordon agreed.

**C. Libby Brownsfield TAG (Bob Zimmerman)** – Bob said that the old Libby superfund site is 10 years or so old and asked if we could evaluate were we are headed, how successful we've been, if the science and techniques are working with the clean up and where the clean up is leading us. He asked if we are ever going to be able to use our ground water wells and if so when. He said there is a definite cost to the residents of Libby not to be able to use their ground wells. Bob questioned whether we could get a parallel TAG grant to look at the Libby ground water situation. He said that he already has two people interested in working on a Feasibility Tiger Team on this issue, Linda Armor and Peggy Crandale. He said he's like to find out what Jim Harris knows on the issue as well.

Rita said that the environmental issues are being addressed by the Port authority. She said that they are addressing that superfund site and the progress of the clean up as part of their efforts to secure that property. She suggested that Bob talk to the Port Authority. Rita said that there are considerable documents on the old superfund site and that they are constantly monitoring what is going on there. She said there has been substantial work done at that site.

Jim said that Linda Armor works down the hall from him and he can talk to her about it and let Bob know.

Jim said that there was a 5 year check on the site by EPA. He said they did a check on the ground water. He believed that the 10 year check was just done that went to Jim Harris. Rita assured TAG that an independent analysis was going on as well.

Bob said that we need a public explanation of where our community is with that superfund site and why we still can't use our ground water. He said it was important for

the community to know when they will be able to use their wells again. Bob said it would be good for the community to know if our interests were negotiated in good faith, just look at our water bills! He said you only have to look at your water bill to know that it isn't fair that we can't use that ground water. George said he would put Bob on the agenda for this Tiger Team for future updates.

**D. Number of houses being cleaned this year (Gordon Sullivan) –**

Gordon questioned Jim whether the contractors were working too many hours a week, at 60 hour weeks, to maintain quality. Jim admitted that it was a balance and juggle act to pace the resources. He said it was important to keep the team together by cutting back the hours when they are overwhelmed with them to the point it might affect quality. Jim said everyone wants the clean up done as quick as we can so he is pushing as much as he can to get it done. He said they are on a learning curve. He expected to get 200 properties cleaned this year based on the money he received and more next year since they have learned from their mistakes and will know what they can achieve. Scott said that the crews are more experienced now and can do more houses than they could in the past.

Clinton asked Jim when they would be starting up the clean up in the Spring. Jim told him that the clean up will go on year round with being able to do indoor clean up in the Winter. He said they would resume outdoor clean up in May or June depending on opening the road and when the ground thaws. He said that they picked hard clean up sites this year, that they weren't cleaned up perfect the first time but they learned a lot.

Contractors in the room said that 10 hour days were the most efficient use of their time because they could work "full out". They said if they were cut to 8 hours that there would be lost time with meetings and decontamination after working fewer hours. They said they were glad that they went to a 5 day work week when it got really hot.

**Other -** George asked Craig French if he would give an update at each of our Board meetings starting in October and he agreed. George said that he would be interested in knowing what the state is doing in anticipation of funding. He asked what the state is doing to prepare for this. Craig responded that the Bond authority is 2 years in the future for \$5 million. He said that EPA will be doing a contaminant screening in Troy. He felt that perhaps the state's 10% match for clean up would be in response to that study. He said these are ideas only as no one knows what the state will do.

Clinton asked if Grace pays for the clean up how would that affect the state's 10% match requirement. Craig said that the clean up would be an unsecured claim in the bankruptcy chain.

Jim said that the \$54 million spent was emergency response and that the state would not be required to match at 10%. He said when we move to remedial phase then the 10% match kicks in. Jim said, IF we get more Remedial money from grade that would reduce the state's 10% match on that phase but not to count on getting that money from Grace.

**E. Action Item Update** – George said at the end of each LATAG Board meeting we will be going over any action items that were brought up and agreed to during the meeting.

**The following discussions did not result in new Action Items:**

Clinton asked when the Berman-Crump data would be available. Jim said not yet. (previous Action Item #11)

Clinton asked when the contractors would be inverting the air sampling tubes. Jim said they haven't done that yet. (previous Action Item #4)

**The following Action Item was discussed and added:**

Gordon asked Jim for both Ground and surface water data and he agreed to submit what he had. Gordon further asked Jim to submit it via e-mail to him direct. Jim agreed so the response would come to Gordon not to the TAG at it's next meeting. Jim said they had taken data from Rainy Creek and wells but not the Kootenai. He didn't expect to find anything in a water body that big. He said the investigation on Rainy Creek hasn't started but would get data to TAG when received it.

**(ACTION ITEM)** – Jim to give Gordon ground and surface water data via e-mail directly to Gordon at gordsull@yahoo.com

Mary asked, if there was a fire that contained asbestos would the residents be put at risk? Jim said that when a garage that had asbestos burned EPA put up air monitors all around to measure any asbestos in the air and that there wasn't much. He said that they will have the data to give to the community from that fire.

He said they are collecting data on what the workers are exposed to while doing their clean up work. Such activities that is collecting data on include the workers climbing around in the attics, working in the yard, driving down Rainy Creek Road, etc. He said they will get a wealth of data on what exposures do on some of these things. He said from that they will be able to extrapolate data. He said he doesn't have data on what it will do to a fire fighter, but they will have exposures to short term data to give to the TAG in the future.

Mary said her concern was more with a forest fire that might burn through the area of the Grace mine. Jim said that yes, certainly there would be concern if that happened, that there is a specific fire suppression plan with the Forest Service which basically is don't do much. He said EPA would set up monitoring to make sure that Libby was OK.

**(ACTION ITEM)** – Jim to give TAG worker exposure data.

**(ACTION ITEM)** Jim said he would get us the words and an idea how best to thank Alvin and/or his bosses by the next LATAG Board meeting in October.

**Meeting adjourned.**